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PAGE 01 STATE 149108
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PAGE 02 STATE 149108

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON CRITICISM OF U.S. MIDEAST POLICY

FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE USED BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT THE NOON BRIEFING JUNE 27 IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION ABOUT CRITICISM OF U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY. TRANSCRIPT OF BRIEFING FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.

Q. WHAT DO YOU SAY TO VARIOUS CRITICISM (FROM SENATOR JAVITS, FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN, PRIME MINISTER BEGIN) OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS?

A. --OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS WE HAVE NOTED A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS (FROM PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, FOREIGN MINISTER AYAN, SENATOR JAVITS) ABOUT OUR POLICY TOWARD THE MIDDLE
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PAGE 03 STATE 149108

EAST. WITHOUT GOING POINT-BY-POINT INTO SPECIFIC STATEMENTS, LET ME RESTATE THE MAIN POINTS OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY, AS MOST RECENTLY STATED BY VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE.

--WE BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT PROGRESS TOWARD A NEGOTIATED PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS ESSENTIAL THIS YEAR IF FUTURE

DISASTER IS TO BE AVOIDED. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY TRUE SECURITY FOR ANY COUNTRY IN THAT TROUBLED AREA IS A TRUE PEACE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

--FORTUNATELY, WE DO NOT BEGIN OUR EFFORTS IN A VACUUM. A STARTING POINT EXISTS IN UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242 OF NOVEMBER 1967 WHICH ALL THE GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED HAVE ACCEPTED. UNITED STATES POLICY SINCE 1967 HAS CONSISTENTLY SOUGHT TO APPLY THE PRINCIPLES AGREED IN THAT RESOLUTION, THROUGH THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS CALLED FOR IN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 OF OCTOBER, 1973, WHICH ALL THE PARTIES HAVE ALSO ACCEPTED.

--THE PEACE FORESEEN IN THESE RESOLUTIONS WILL REQUIRE BOTH SIDES TO THE DISPUTE TO MAKE DIFFICULT COMPROMISES. WE ARE

NOT ASKING FOR ONE-SIDED CONCESSIONS FROM ANYONE.

--THE ARAB STATES WILL HAVE TO AGREE TO IMPLEMENT A KIND OF PEACE WHICH PRODUCES CONFIDENCE IN ITS DURABILITY. IN OUR VIEW THAT MEANS SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS ON ALL FRONTS SATISFACTORY TO ALL PARTIES TO GUARANTEE ESTABLISHED BORDERS. IT ALSO INVOLVES STEPS TOWARD THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

--THAT PEACE, TO BE DURABLE, MUST ALSO DEAL WITH THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE. IN THIS CONNECTION THE PRESIDENT HAS SPOKEN OF THE NEED FOR A HOMELAND FOR THE PALESTINIANS, WHOSE EXACT NATURE SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE PARTIES. CLEARLY, WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 149108

HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF ALL PARTIES INVOLVED.

--WITHIN THE TERMS OF RESOLUTION 242, IN RETURN FOR THIS KIND OF PEACE ISRAEL CLEARLY SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. WE CONSIDER THAT THIS RESOLUTION MEANS WITHDRAWAL ON ALL THREE FRONTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE (SINAI, GOLAN, WEST BANK-GAZA), WITH THE EXACT BORDERS AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS BEING AGREED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

--THESE NEGOTIATIONS MUST START WITHOUT ANY PRECONDITIONS FROM ANY SIDE. THIS MEANS NO TERRITORIES--INCLUDING THE WEST BANK--ARE AUTOMATICALLY EXCLUDED FROM THE ITEMS TO BE NEGOTIATED. ON BACKGROUND: WE HAVE BEEN DISTURBED BY SOME INDICATIONS FROM ISRAEL RECENTLY THAT CERTAIN OF THE TERRITORIES --NAMELY, THE WEST BANK--ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE BEGINNING FROM THE ITEMS TO BE NEGOTIATED. END BACKGROUND.

--TO AUTOMATICALLY EXCLUDE ANY TERRITORY STRIKES US AS CONTRADICTORY TO THE PRINCIPLE OF NEGOTIATING WITHOUT PRE-CONDITION. NOR DOES IT CONFORM TO THE SPIRIT OF RESOLUTION 242 WHICH FORMS THE FRAMEWORK FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

--EVERY ADMINISTRATION SINCE 1967 HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED RESOLUTION 242, AND IT HAS THE WIDEST INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AS WELL. AS VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE STATED IN HIS SPEECH JUNE 17, THE UNITED STATES IS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE TO USE ITS UNIQUE POSITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO HELP THE PARTIES IMPLEMENT THAT RESOLUTION.

Q. WHAT ABOUT SENATOR JAVITS' REMARKS SPECIFICALLY?

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PAGE 05 STATE 149108

A. --WE HAVE NOTED SENATOR JAVITS' EXPLANATION OF HIS INTENT IN MAKING THE SPEECH TODAY.

--WE WELCOME INFORMED DEBATE ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE OF THE MIDDLE EAST. IT WAS EXACTLY TO STIMULATE DEBATE HERE AND IN THE REGION THAT THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT HAVE ARTICULATED AMERICAN CONCEPTS FOR AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE.

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